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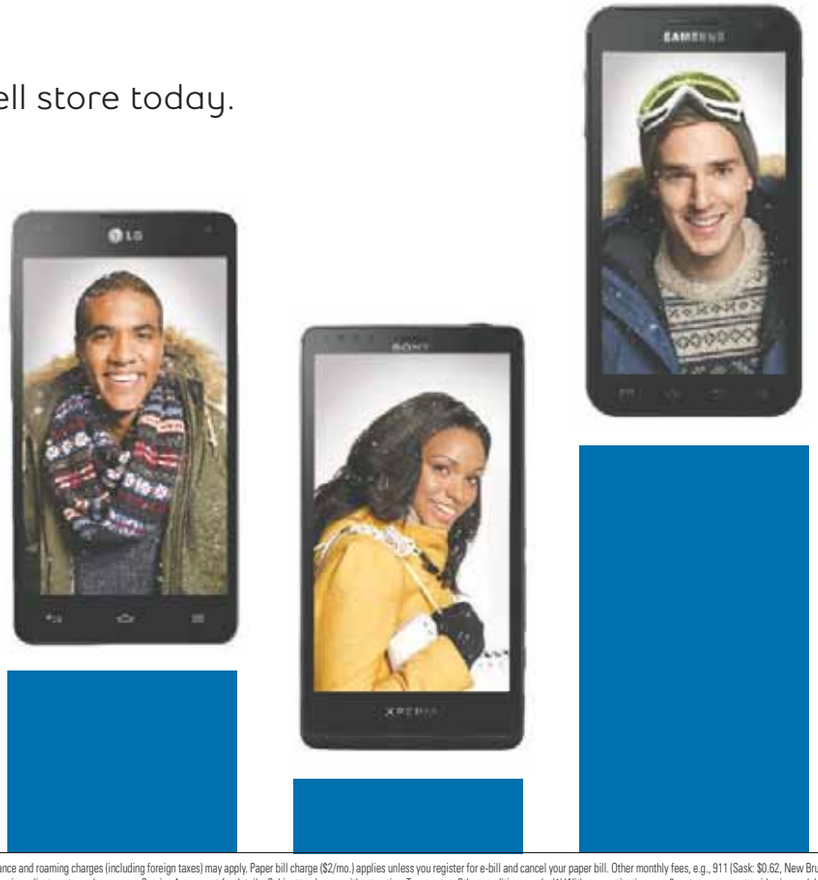

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Mayor's year in review

Gregor Robertson sits with Metro to reflect on 2012 and look ahead to the challenges of 2013, from transit to a greener city PAGE 4

WHY NOT GO ALL THE WAY FOR A WINTER GETAWAY?

BECOME A REAL SNOWBIRD AND HEAD FAR SOUTH TO ANTARCTICA TO HANG WITH THE PENGUINS PAGE 23

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Drunk driver says sorry

Court. Natasha Warren due to be sentenced for 2011 death of Kassandra Kaulius

The woman responsible for the drunk-driving death of Kassandra Kaulius last year apologized to the victim's family at her sentencing hearing in a Surrey court Tuesday.

Natasha Warren, who pleaded guilty in July to three charges, including dangerous driving causing death, said that words cannot express how sorry she is for killing the 22-year-old softball player.

"If I could take it back, I would trade places with her in a second," she said, facing the judge.

Warren's mother, Shelley, along with several witnesses, took the stand to tell the court that the 35-year-old wants to take responsibility and teach youth about the dangers of drinking and driving one day.

It was also "very out of character" for her daughter to have done something like driving drunk because she's the type of person who would have "taken keys from people," Shelley added.

The victim's mother, Markita Kaulius, walked out of the courtroom when Shelley claimed that what was said about Kassandra in family statements on Monday "mirrors" her own daughter.

"My daughter was nothing like her daughter," Markita told reporters after the hearing. "My daughter would never have driven impaired and killed someone."

She is also disappointed that Warren will get to spend Christmas with her family, as the judge will hand down his sentence Dec. 28.

"My biggest Christmas wish this year was I wanted her to be going off to jail," Markita said, adding she was shocked that Warren did not turn around to face the family when she apologized.

Markita said only time will tell whether she believes Warren's pledge to teach youth about drinking and driving, but for now her family will have to deal with another holiday without Kassandra.

"On top of our Christmas tree sits an angel and it has a whole new meaning for us. The angel on top of our tree is our daughter and it's very hard to look at," she added.

The defence is asking for a jail sentence of just over two years, while the Crown is recommending a three-and-a-half-year jail term. Both agreed on a five-year driving ban.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Markita and Victor Kaulius talk to reporters outside Surrey provincial court Tuesday after the sentencing hearing of the drunk driver responsible for the death of their daughter, Kassandra, in May 2011. Natasha Warren will be sentenced Dec. 28. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

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Metro favourites

Reporter's pick: It was the perfect feel-good story for the season

Of the hundreds of tools waiting for their rightful owners at the Vancouver police compound, dozens were meticulously labelled "Fred."

Vancouver police confiscated nearly $200,000 worth of stolen construction equipment, snowboards, bikes and golf clubs after a six-week investigation this fall.

About $9,000 worth of high-tech equipment belonged to Fred — and the police really wanted to give him his tools back.

Fred Guo contacted Det. Phil Ens the day I wrote the article.

The technician's friends and family had flooded him with notes and calls after they saw the story. He had told everyone how upset he was when he lost his beloved tools, so they absolutely knew I was talking about him, he later told me. Those tools are his livelihood.

I met a thrilled Fred at the police station after he returned from a job up north. He brought two dozen donuts for the two officers who recovered his equipment.

It's a treat to cover a police story with a happy ending. Finding Fred was an early Christmas present for all involved.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Thursday: Reporter Phylicia Torrevillas shares her favourite story of the year. Have your say: Vote for the top stories of 2012 at metronews.ca. Readers' picks will be published on Friday.

Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu apologized to the families and friends of the missing women Tuesday, the day after a report blasted the police for "systemic bias" against the marginalized women of the Downtown Eastside. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

'For the record, we are very sorry'

VPD apologizes. Police say measures are now in place to make sure sex-trade victims are not marginalized

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The Vancouver police offered an unqualified apology on Tuesday for not catching serial killer Robert Pickton sooner.

"For the record, we are very sorry to the families and friends of the missing women," Chief Const. Jim Chu said at a news conference the day after Wally Oppal's final report on the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry blasted the force for "systemic bias" against the marginalized sex-trade workers in the Downtown Eastside.

"We made many mistakes. We're sorry we made those mistakes."

Assumptions were made about the victims in the late 1990s, Chu said, but the force has since taken steps to ensure that wouldn't happen again.

A sex-industry liaison officer, Const. Linda Malcolm, now works with front-line workers, so if a woman went missing today investigators could find relevant information about her community and previous whereabouts more quickly. Oppal recommended her work be expanded, a recommendation the police are happy to follow.

Deputy Chief Doug LePard pointed out dramatic changes to missing-person investigations have been made in the past five to six years, with police now placing high priority on cases dealing with marginalized populations.

But when it comes to the report's recommendation for a regionalized police force, Chu would not go into detail.

Instead, he pointed out that Vancouver and Victoria are the only jurisdictions in Canada without a regional force and that police must work within the current framework in the absence of political action.

Vancouver police support a regional force, according to reports dated May 2012 and February 2008.

"If we were to design the ideal policing structure for the Greater Vancouver Region, I don't think we would design what we have now," he said. "Right now I think it's up to the political leaders to make a decision."

Rescue. Snowboarder found after three days missing at Cypress

Sebastien Boucher, a 33-year-old Vancouver snowboarder who went missing at Cypress on Sunday after going out of bounds, was found after being lost on the mountain for three days.

At press time Tuesday, Boucher was still in the bush, but North Shore Rescue said they could walk him out or bring him out by helicopter.

Tim Jones, a spokesman for North Shore Rescue, said his team searched almost non-stop with West Vancouver police since Monday, when Boucher's car was found.

On Tuesday evening, the rescue team spotted footprints around Disbrow Creek, which they followed, finally spotting Boucher who was yelling, "Helicopter! Helicopter!"

"(Monday) night the weather improved to the point where we could get (the RCMP Air 2 helicopter), which has heat-seeking ability and the armed forced helicopter with night-vision goggles."

CARA MCKENNA/METRO

Copy/paste problem. Vancouver man's FB post not written by Morgan Freeman

A 33-year-old local man was in for a surprise when a Facebook post he made exploded online after being reposted and credited as a quote by movie star Morgan Freeman.

Mark Price's post critiqued the media's coverage of the deadly Connecticut shooting.

"You can help by forgetting you ever read this man's name, and remembering the name of at least one victim. You can help by donating to mental health research instead of pointing to gun control as the problem. You can help by turning off the news," Price wrote.

Somehow the post got attributed to Morgan Freeman and was shared so many times that Freeman's publicist released a statement saying he wasn't responsible for it.

Morgan Freeman GETTY IMAGES

Price said he merely meant to share the post with his Facebook friends.

"Nobody wanted to deceive anyone," said Price. It just got out of my hands."

After people started copying and pasting Price's post without crediting him, he jokingly commented that eventually someone was going to just attribute it to a celebrity like Morgan Freeman or Betty White.

The quote was then reposted, attributed as a Morgan Freeman quote and went viral, getting posted worldwide.

"It was like a big game of telephone.... Now Fox News, who I was initially criticizing, has reported on it," said Price.

CARA MCKENNA/METRO

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

GREGOR ROBERTSON

Yes, Mayor Gregor Robertson biked to work despite the snow Tuesday morning. And, no, the NHL hasn't responded to his letter pleading for a swift end to the lockout. Vancouver's mayor sat down with Metro's Emily Jackson to reflect on 2012 and to look ahead at the issues expected to be on his agenda in 2013 — namely, affordable housing and transit. Here's what he had to say:

REFLECTING ON 2012

On council's biggest decisions of 2012
The affordable-housing action plan and the 2040 transportation plan were both "big shifts" for the city.

Robertson wants affordable housing built along with condos and single-family homes "rather than letting the market decide," and the transport plan hopes to get two-thirds of Vancouverites out of cars and onto bikes, sidewalks and transit.

On a regional police force
Wally Oppal recommended a regional police force in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, but Robertson said it's up to the B.C. government to create a Metro Vancouver police force.

He has been "strongly in favour of a regional police force as the most effective way to improve policing and public safety." Local governments need to step up and be willing to embrace change, Robertson added.

On duking it out with Surrey over transit funds
"Mayor (Dianne) Watts and I have been on the same page about ensuring the whole region has appropriate funding sources to improve our transit system and that we build out both Surrey and Vancouver ASAP with rapid transit," he said. But right now there's no money and a "broken" funding system despite growing demand.

He, along with mayors across the region, supports road pricing and a carbon tax to fund transit, in order to reduce reliance on property taxes.

"We're stuck until the B.C. government approves new sources. So they either do that by the end of February or transit becomes a big election issue."

If he can't get the $3 billion necessary for an underground line to the University of British Columbia, Robertson said a phased approach to Arbutus might be the near-term solution if funding is tighter.

On the city's green future
Robertson wants to make Vancouver the "greenest" city by 2020 and build a technology-based economy. And he's open to seeing if other businesses such as the vertical Local Garden would pay rent for empty city parkade spaces.

He's against expanding the Kinder Morgan pipeline and coal exports — "fossil-fuel expansion is not part of Vancouver's economic future" — even if some of that money would indirectly go to transit or housing.

Looking ahead

Gregor's plans.

- **For 2013.** Ending homelessness by 2015; the Canucks winning the Stanley Cup in a short season.
- **For the future.** Landing money for the Broadway subway; making Vancouver the "greenest" city by 2020; building a tech-based economy.
- **Where he says the B.C. government needs to step up.** Regional police force; affordable housing; sustainable transit funding.

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Ugly Christmas sweaters. Send us your photos!

Ugly Christmas sweaters are all the rage, whether knitted by your nana or purchased for a pittance at one of Vancouver's fine thrift establishments. Metro will be collecting readers' sweater photos until noon this Friday with the aim of spreading the cotton-blended cheer in an online photo gallery this weekend.

To make your holiday threads famous, email a photo of yourself wearing them to vancouver@metronews.ca with your name, contact information and a brief description of how you got it. Grandma will thank you. **METRO VANCOUVER**

Go on, hit us with your best shot.
COURTESY OF JOHN KEATLEY VIA KEATLEYPHOTO.COM

Northern B.C.

Province bans oil, gas exploration on aboriginal land

The province has banned oil-and-gas exploration in an area where First Nations staged anti-development protests seven years ago. The deal with Shell Canada and the Tahltan Central Council means the oil company will withdraw plans to explore for natural gas in the region known as the Klappan. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Big White

Skier recovering after jump from gondola

A skier is recovering in hospital after jumping from a gondola lift at the Big White ski resort near Kelowna. The man in his 20s smashed a window in the gondola and made a 15-metre drop to the snow below. He suffered injuries to his pelvis and was rushed to hospital.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Majority in B.C. support publicly funding IVF: Poll

Surrey mom Misty Busch was 28 when she gave birth to twins through in vitro fertilization, but they were born premature, one by C-section. During her pregnancy she suffered from gestational diabetes. MISTY BUSCH/CONTRIBUTED

In vitro fertilization. Infertility directly affects one in six B.C. couples, says UBC department head

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

A new poll shows 73 per cent of British Columbians think the province should publicly fund in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatments, as Quebec did in 2010.

Dr. Timothy Rowe, head of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at UBC, said infertility directly affects one in six couples in B.C.

Because it can cost about $10,000 per cycle, couples often get multiple embryos transplanted to increase their chances of conceiving on the first try, which can lead to costly complications.

"A multiple pregnancy is more dangerous than a single pregnancy for the mother, and also for the babies," Rowe explained. "They're more likely to end up with complications of pregnancy, more likely to end up needing a cesarean for delivery, and more likely to end up with premature babies with a higher proportion of handicap."

According to the Infertility Awareness Association of Canada, which commissioned the Angus Reid Forum poll of 1,608 British Columbians in October, Quebec's policy has led to a reduction in IVF multiple pregnancies from about 30 per cent to well under 10 per cent.

Rowe claims B.C. stands to save $78 million in health-care costs over five years by providing public funding for single-embryo transfer procedures only. Quebec Health Minister Yves Bolduc has estimated the program saves his province $30 million to $60 million per year.

B.C. Health Ministry spokesman Ryan Jabs responded to the poll results in an email, saying the province understands many couples have difficulty conceiving, but its focus is "to insure effective procedures, while keeping health care costs sustainable."

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Hundreds protest cuts to DTES treatment centre

Protesters carry about 40 coffins from the Downtown Eastside to Point Grey on Tuesday to protest the loss of mental-health and addiction workers at a women's treatment centre. KATE WEBB/METRO

Rainier Hotel.
Non-medical programs being slashed due to lack of funding

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

About 200 people marched to Premier Christy Clark's office on Tuesday, carrying mock coffins to protest the end of funding for the equivalent of eight full-time mental-health and addiction workers at the Rainier Hotel drug-treatment centre.

The 40-bed centre opened in 2009 in the Downtown Eastside, with $9.5 million from the province and a one-time $5-million contribution from Health Canada. But the federal funding runs out in early January.

The pilot project contracted PHS Community Services to try to help the neighbourhood's most at-risk women, many of them sex-trade workers with a history of homelessness, traumatic backgrounds, mental illness and high rates of HIV and hepatitis C, who have failed in other treatment programs.

Anna Marie D'Angelo, spokeswoman for Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), said the PHS workers helped to facilitate activities such as knitting classes, yoga and morning walks, but since they are non-clinical it is outside the health authority's mandate to replace the funding for them.

"In this program, there were 50 women that actually completed the program, and it was a high cost. So, as far as health care goes and the recovery goes, we've taken the most beneficial things — the housing and the health care — and we're transitioning that forward," D'Angelo said, noting there will still be health-care workers on site 24 hours a day.

Lindsay Thompson, a community mental-health and addiction worker at Rainier, who joined the protest walk, said the non-clinical staff have been integral to many women's recovery.

"They're there 24 hours, taking them to appointments — they take them to get groceries, they take them to do all those little tasks, which are not clinical but it's what makes it a treatment centre and it's what makes it so successful," she said.

"VCH is continuing some of the clinical services, which is at least something. But it's not enough to make it a treatment centre. They're cutting all the therapeutic programs."

A study conducted by PHS Community Services found that six months after women left the program, 50 per cent were still abstaining from substances.

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Bazinga! B.C. woman's Big Bang Theory doll makes TV debut

A B.C. woman who is a big fan of the hit show The Big Bang Theory got a real bang of her own when a doll she made of one of the show's characters appeared on TV.

Jackie Laing of Dawson Creek made a crochet doll of Jim Parsons in his character as Sheldon Cooper, the oddball star of the sitcom about four nerdy friends in California.

"The Big Bang Theory is my favourite show and he's my favourite character. I like his quirkiness," she said.

Laing sent Parsons the doll, which is decked out in the Flash T-shirt and jeans that he frequently wears on the show.

Parsons sent her an email picture showing him holding the doll, and then took it along with him when he appeared as a guest on Conan O'Brien's talk show on Dec. 5.

"I think it's the cutest thing in the world," Parsons said, mentioning Jackie's name.

"I was in shock," Laing said. "I was really excited." She was so overcome she cried when she first saw the doll on television.

Laing said she has posted the design online for those wishing to create their own Sheldon doll.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tips sought

Youth charged for PoCo security guard beating

A 16-year-old has been charged with aggravated assault in the severe beating of a security guard in Port Coquitlam in October. Hoshiar Singh Bajwa, 65, of Surrey, was attacked with a metal pipe while he was patrolling a construction site. RCMP Cpl. Jamie Chung says investigators are seeking information from the public about others who were involved in the beating. Bajwa is still recovering from a serious eye injury and gashes that required more than 100 stitches. Anyone with information is asked to come forward and contact Coquitlam RCMP at 604-945-1550.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Where there's smoke

Woman collared for courtroom cannabis caper

Have B.C.'s courtrooms gone to pot? A woman in Williams Lake apparently thinks so.

An RCMP release on Tuesday said the woman was arrested after she allegedly tossed a bag of marijuana to her common-law husband as he sat in the prisoner's box during a provincial court hearing.

"In my time as a police officer, I've seen, and heard of, a number of odd criminal offences, but I have to admit this is definitely one of the stranger ones," said Insp. Warren Brown, head of the Williams Lake RCMP.

The woman was charged with trafficking.

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Vancouver indie rock band Mother Mother will be playing in front of a hometown crowd at a sold-out show at the Orpheum Theatre Wednesday. MATT BOURNE/CONTRIBUTED

60 SECONDS WITH: MOTHER MOTHER

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Ryan Guldemond, frontman of Vancouver indie-rock band Mother Mother, talks about their relationship with the fans, making it in the music industry, and ending their Canadian tour with a sold-out hometown show Wednesday at the Orpheum Theatre.

Metro: Were there any weird or interesting things that happened during your tour?

Nothing really too out of the ordinary, just really good shows, beautiful venues, great crowds. We've just really been enjoying playing the music, to be honest, more than ever.

Metro: How is it touring with your sisters? Do you ever get tired of being together all the time?

We got into a little spat (last Thursday) already, but love is in the air perpetually. It's easy to get over these pockets of turbulence by knowing that.

Metro: What is the band's relationship like with the fans?

We want to meet them after the shows. We want to interact with them online. We want to see the art that they make that was inspired by us and repost it. We have a really accessible relationship with our fans. There's not a big wall or barrier built on illusions or grandiosity.

Metro: What can your fans expect from your hometown show?

There's just much more music to draw from so we can create a very dimensional musical journey now. I regard it as the best we've been live, so it will be an elevated Mother Mother concert than what people are used to.

Metro: What's been the role of Vancouver in helping get the band the success you've gotten so far and in the way you write music?

I definitely don't write from a patriotic standpoint. I'm not really inspired to write about the mountains or West Coast living, so at that level there's a disconnect. But in terms of getting connected to the city, there's a very strong hold there and a deep rapport that dates to the very first days of getting this thing happening. We definitely felt nurtured from our hometown support, which helped us build it to take it elsewhere.

Metro: What's the inspiration behind your fourth album The Sticks?

It's kind of a mashup. The one part is the simpleton's slight in the modern world and the instinct to retreat to nature and protest technology. It's equal part human-conditional dilemma and interpersonal peculiarity.

Metro: Some artists/bands go on hiatus to work on their album, but you wasted no time in between albums. Why is that?

Making a record doesn't really take that long. It depends on your energy level. We're not really one to exploit hiatus. It doesn't seem wise, because until this thing has reached a critical mass, you have to work very hard just to keep it alive. We just have to keep working to keep it going.

Metro: What do you love most about being a musician?

Being happy all the time and not being spiteful of your activities. This is what we want to do. Life, for the most part, isn't about doing what you want to do, but doing what you have to do in order to get by. But having this as a job, the passion eliminates that strain of existing.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Republicans open up to gun debate

Taking the first step. Gun manufacturers see shares continue to drop as politicians on both sides of the aisle shift stances following Friday's shooting

Some Republicans now say they're willing to discuss the politically treacherous issue of gun control, along with mental-health issues and violent video games, while U.S. President Barack Obama said he supports efforts in Congress to reinstate an assault-weapons ban in the wake of last week's Connecticut school shooting.

The massacre, one of the worst mass shootings in U.S history, has rattled the usual national dialogue on guns in America, where public opinion had shifted against tougher gun control in recent years, and the gun lobby is a powerful political force.

Obama has long supported reinstating the assault-weapons ban, which expired in 2004, but was quiet on the issue during his first term. He has said he believes the Constitution's Second Amendment guarantees an individual the right to bear arms.

The president was not expected to take any formal action on guns before the end of the year, given the all-consuming efforts to resolve tax and deficit-reduction talks and nominate new cabinet secretaries.

The most powerful supporter of gun owners, the National Rifle Association, broke its silence Tuesday. After a self-imposed media blackout that left many wondering how it would respond to the killings, it said in a statement that its members were "shocked, saddened and heartbroken by the news of the horrific and senseless murders."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Susan Sheperd wipes a tear as she stands with friends and co-workers at the funeral Tuesday for James Mattioli, 6, who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings. Funerals were held for Mattioli and Jessica Rekos, 6, who were among the 26 people killed when Adam Lanza walked into the elementary school in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14 and opened fire. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A complicated issue

"Put guns on the table ... put video games on the table, put mental health on the table."

Republican congressman Jack Kingston

Quebec. Slain teacher's relatives call American gun laws 'revolting'

The Newtown school massacre has left grieving Canadian relatives of one murdered teacher denouncing American gun laws.

Several of the Rousseau family in Quebec's Eastern Townships will be going down to Connecticut for the funeral of Lauren Rousseau, a substitute teacher whose father was born in Quebec.

"It's revolting how easy it is to obtain firearms — that's what's so infuriating," said the victim's uncle, Francois Rousseau. He and several relatives will be heading down for the funeral of his brother's daughter.

Lauren Rousseau, 30, was born in the U.S. Her Canadian-born father, Gilles, told Radio-Canada that he wanted to see his daughter's body, but was informed by authorities that it would not be possible.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bushmaster rifles

Firearms maker put up for sale

The largest firearms maker in the United States said Tuesday it is being put up for sale by its owner, which called last week's school shooting a "watershed event" in the national debate over gun control. Freedom Group International makes Bushmaster rifles, the weapon thought to have been used in Friday's killings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Claims self-defence

Student, 11, brings gun to school

Authorities say an 11-year-old boy caught with a gun at school in Utah told administrators he brought the weapon to defend himself in case of an attack similar to the mass shooting last week at a Connecticut elementary school. School officials say the boy has been arrested. No one was injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Suspects in maple-syrup heist nabbed

Police say they have recovered two-thirds of the maple syrup stolen from a Quebec warehouse last summer. ISTOCK

Sticky fingers. Three people arrested in connection with theft of 2.7 million kilos of sweet, sweet inventory

There have been arrests in the case of a massive maple-syrup heist, police announced Tuesday as they celebrated a break in their months-long multi-jurisdictional search for the stolen sticky stuff.

Three people have been detained in connection with the theft of a large quantity of the national condiment from a warehouse in Quebec.

About 2.7 million kilos of maple syrup was reported missing after a routine inventory check last summer. Or, if your preferred unit of measurement is pancakes, the stolen amount would have provided a one-tablespoon topping for a whopping 183 million flapjacks.

Police say they have now recovered most of the missing syrup. They have also seized vehicles suspected of being used in the trafficking operation and equipment like scales and electronic lifts.

Those arrested were expected to face charges in a Trois-Rivières courtroom of theft, conspiracy, fraud and trafficking in stolen goods Tuesday.

There are arrest warrants out for five other people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Death row

Governor spares obese inmate

The decision by Ohio's governor to spare a morbidly obese death-row inmate on legal grounds unrelated to the prisoner's weight means executions will likely carry on in the state next year.

Gov. John Kasich on Monday commuted the death sentence of Ronald Post to life without the possibility of parole, sparing him for the 1983 shooting death of Elyria motel clerk Helen Vantz. Kasich's decision to grant Post mercy mirrored the recommendation by the state parole board, which said there were too many problems with how he was represented 30 years ago.

Had the governor considered the argument used in Federal Court — that executing Post would amount to cruel and unusual punishment — other death-row inmates may have been able to use the same argument.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Corrupting morals'

Gore artist testifies

A Quebec special-effects artist charged with corrupting morals has defended himself in court, testifying that his gory works constitute art. Remy Couture testified on his own behalf at a jury trial being heard Tuesday in Montreal. Couture, 35, said the horror website he ran, Inner Depravity, which brought to life a psychopathic-killer character he created, is artistic and not pornographic.

He is charged with three counts of corrupting morals by distributing, possessing and producing obscene materials in a case that explores the boundaries of artistic expression and Canadian obscenity laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sex slur sparks school riot

Anonymous posting on Instagram. Mounted police move in as anger explodes after teenage girls are called 'sluts' and 'whores'

ARON ANDERSSON
Metro World News in Sweden

The scene outside a school in Sweden where a riot erupted after an Instagram account called teenage girls "sluts" and "whores." HENRIK BRUNNSGARD/METRO SWEDEN

An anonymous Instagram account that posted images of teenage girls and called them "sluts" and "whores" has sparked riots outside a Swedish high school.

The account showed more than 200 images of teens reportedly as young as 13.

It contained details of alleged sexual activity.

Hundreds of teens gathered outside Plusgymnasiet high school in Gothenburg where the alleged owner of the account is believed to attend.

Police, some on horseback, went to the school as students threw objects and jumped on cars, witnesses said.

YouTube footage shows a large group scuffling.

At the high school, one girl was hit in the face, another was attacked and kicked by four girls, a witness told Metro.

"The teachers cried out and there was a panic on the whole school. It was so sick," said 17-year old student Janina Niemi, who was in the canteen when the fracas began.

"I saw one girl being kicked in the head. She was on the ground, there were four against one."

Some 27 people were arrested. A 17-year-old girl has been taken into custody. The girl is suspected of having started the Instagram account.

The aftermath: The Instagram account was shut down but then migrated to Facebook.

Quoted

"It is completely unacceptable to say things like this about people."

Kirsi Niemi,
mother of student Janina Niemi.

Landmark study

3,000 Saudis say: Let our women drive

Is a ban on Saudi women driving destined to disappear? That could be the outcome if a landmark study helps sway the Muslim kingdom's leaders.

A Saudi online newspaper says more than 3,000 nationals of the kingdom have endorsed a study that recommends lifting a ban on women driving.

The list of backers includes prominent writers and academics.

Sabaq quoted on Tuesday Abdullah al-Alami, a researcher who contributed to the study, as saying it was sent to King Abdullah's main advisory body, the Shura Council, asking it to set a date to discuss it.

Key religious leaders in the ultraconservative kingdom want to keep the practice of not letting women drive.

But some religious scholars have backed a movement to encourage the king to change the laws. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Air Canada Rouge takes flight July 1

Discount travel. New carrier will focus on leisure travel market, with destinations in Europe, Caribbean

Air Canada's chief commercial officer Ben Smith, right, and Michael Friisdahl, CEO of Air Canada Leisure Group, second right, unveil new leisure airline Air Canada Rouge in downtown Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada is jumping into the low-cost leisure travel market with the launch of its new Rouge airline, which will begin flying on Canada Day to destinations in Europe and the Caribbean.

The airline will start with flights from Toronto to Venice and Edinburgh — two destinations that currently aren't served by Air Canada — and will serve Athens from Toronto and Montreal.

Air Canada's existing flights to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Costa Rica will be flown by the discount carrier from Toronto.

The destinations are areas where demand for leisure travel has been growing, said Ben Smith, Air Canada's chief commercial officer. But many are routes that didn't generate adequate profits under Air Canada's existing cost structure.

"The creation of this carrier is to assist us in serving many destinations that our existing model does not work on a competitive basis," Smith said.

The airline says flights to Venice, Edinburgh and Athens start at "special introductory fares" of $949 round-trip, including all taxes, fees, charges and surcharges.

Flights to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica will start at $269, one-way, while Cuba is offered starting at $538 round-trip. All the introductory fares, which are available until Dec. 25, are based on Toronto departures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BVO. Drink additive is safe, Health Canada says

Major soft-drink makers and Health Canada say the use of brominated vegetable oil in Canadian beverages is safe, despite a growing movement elsewhere to ban its use.

The additive, which is used to cloud and stop separation in some drinks, has been banned in most of Europe for decades and Japan recently discontinued its use. However, BVO continues to be used in popular drinks sold in Canada, including some flavours of Gatorade, Powerade, Fresca, Mountain Dew and Amp Energy Drink.

BVO is classified as a food additive, but there is limited knowledge of its composition, researchers have said. It does contain bromine, which is also in flame retardants and has been found to build up in body lipids. A Health Canada spokesman said there are no health risks associated with BVO when it is used according to regulations, which sets out that 15 parts per million can be used in citrus or spruce-flavoured beverages.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No hidden fees

Airfare ads must show total ticket price, feds say

The federal government says advertised airfares for flights originating in Canada must include all relevant fees so the travelling public can easily understand the total cost.

Transport Minister Denis Lebel said advertised prices for the public must include all taxes, fees and other charges so consumers can clearly see the total cost of an airline ticket, with no hidden fees. The "all-in" price doesn't need to include fees for optional services such as in-flight entertainment, meals and baggage, but the price of the options must be displayed.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Policy change

Instagram says photos won't end up in advertising

Instagram, the popular photo-sharing service that Facebook bought this year, says it will revise a planned update to its service agreement after confusion about its intent led to widespread user complaints.

At issue is whether users' photos can be part of advertisements on and off Instagram. The company said in a blog post Tuesday that it has no plans to put users' photos in advertisements.

That said, Instagram maintains that it was created to become a business and would like to experiment with various forms of advertisements to make money.

After the company posted its new terms of service on Monday, it became the target of a storm of outrage on Twitter and other sites.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CUDDLE PARTY MARKS END OF WORLD

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Looking for something to do the day the world ends?

How about a Cuddle Party? There's one on the Last Day, this coming Friday, somewhere in Calgary. To ward off kuddle krashers, you don't get to know the final location until you pay your 20 bucks and sign up. Then, apparently, you turn up in your pyjamas ready to cuddle. Or not.

WTF? You don't know about Cuddle Parties? Well, let me bring you up to speed. The Cuddle Party is the brainchild of two New York relationship counsellors (you're surprised?), Reid Mihalko and Marcia Baczynski, who started them in their "tiny Manhattan apartment" in 2004. They spread immediately to the Left Coast, and from there to Vancouver and Calgary, the apparent, er, hot bed of Canadian cuddling.

In a nutshell

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Those eastern bastards may have to freeze in the dark, but Calgary has Cuddle Power to keep it warm.

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Organizers are adamant. No sex. According to the Rules (and there are plenty of them), if you get turned on, just wait and it will go away. So they say. Just to make sure: no alcohol or shorts allowed. Pyjamas with drawstrings — this is a lace-free zone.

The first 40 minutes of the event involves a presentation on How to Cuddle, giving leery participants enough time to work up the courage to cuddle some guy you might not care to sit next to on the bus, especially considering the way he's looking at you.

But don't worry! By the end of the evening, you'll have discovered the Joy of Cuddling and will be prepared to cuddle anyone or anything. Or not. One of the features of the Cuddle Party is that it offers participants an opportunity to learn how to say NO in the clinch. Each touch essentially has to be negotiated in advance. If the cuddlee says yes (not yes! yes! yes!) then the cuddler can proceed with some respectful, non-sexual touching.

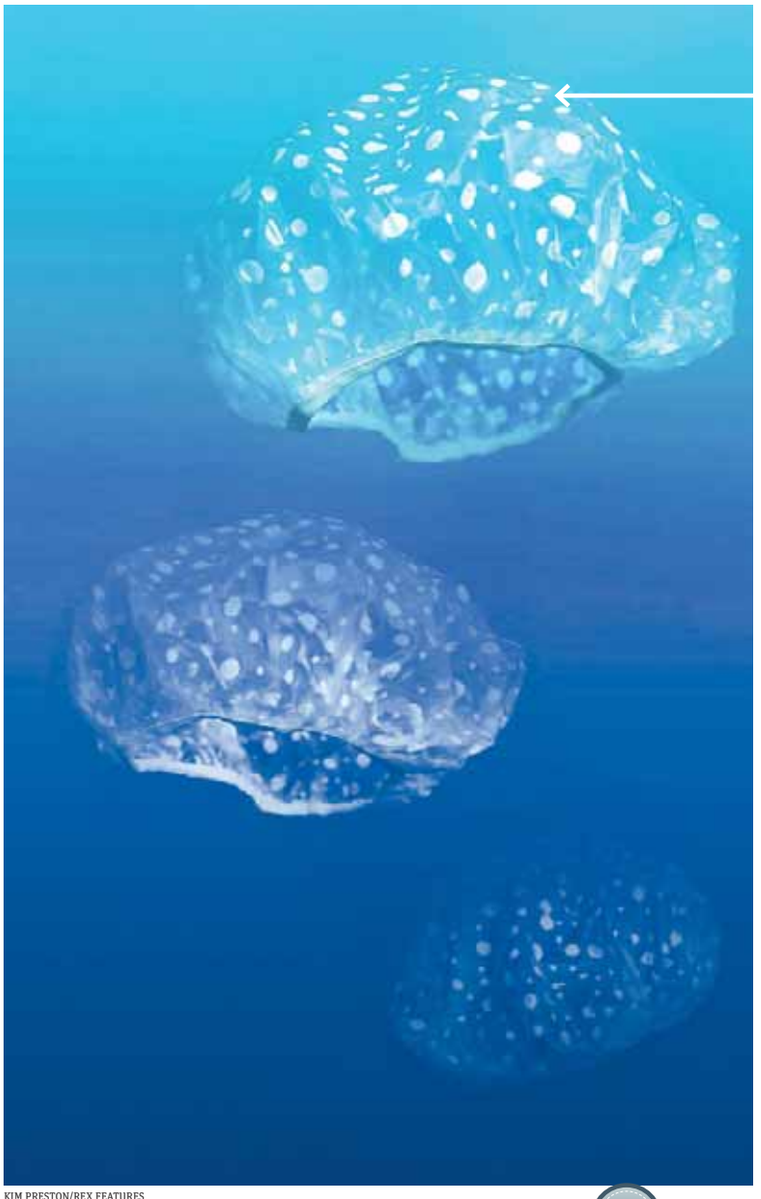
This advanced course in touching strangers leads to a lot of (painfully) sincere, convoluted language from participant testimonials on the website cuddleparty.com about learning to say no in order to say yes, or is it the other way around? And about how cuddling is not always about sex and various other things guys will say when they hope to get lucky.

Look, I can't think of anything I'd rather do less on my last day on Earth than cuddle with the cast of Portlandia, but that's just me. I can Just Say No, can't I?

But you go ahead and get to yes. Just remember, that's all you're getting.

If you haven't heard of Cuddle Parties yet, get well acquainted. CUDDLEPARTY.COM

This looks a bit fishy



KIM PRESTON/REX FEATURES

'Animal' photography

Plastic shot to look like sea creatures

This image of odd-looking sea creatures would have marine biologists baffled, but it in fact shows an everyday object shot to represent sea animals. The project, titled Plastic Pacific, was created by Australian artist Kim Preston, 33, who wanted to draw attention to the devastating effect of plastic buildup in oceans around the globe. METRO

Artist's viewpoint

"I hoped that the prettiness of the images would draw people in more than if I showed the far uglier reality."

Kim Preston, digital designer and illustrator, 33, from Melbourne

Passionate about the preservation of our oceans, Preston added that "this is a photographically based rant against the irresponsible overuse of plastic. I recently obtained a scuba-diving certificate in Indonesia and seeing all of the plastic caught on the reefs inspired this project."

Process of photograph

Creativity used to shoot under budget

Shot in her garden shed, Preston used a blue fabric as the backdrop and hung all the objects from a clothes rack while she photographed them. For the shower caps, she would quickly blow into them before snapping a shot with a wireless shutter release. She had planned to shoot the series inside a fish tank, but her lack of budget forced her to become more creative. METRO

Metropolitan Panel

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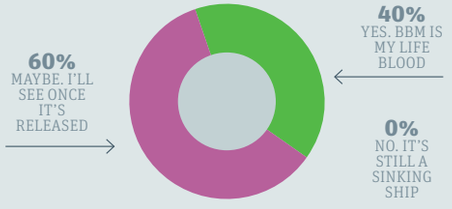
RIM's BlackBerry 10 is getting rave reviews. Are you buying into the hype?



Twitter

@TakeaHikeFdn:
Is anyone else excited about this snow? Snowshoeing? Skiing? Snowboarding? Tobogganning? Snowmen?

@grabs40:
The older I get the more I dislike shopping for present..I think I ran out of ideas what to get for people 9 years ago #christmass-hopping

@BCLionsDen:
It makes me laugh when people suggest that Tebow and Sanchez should play in the #CFL, as if it's a given they woukd make it here. #smh

@grahamclark:
Oh no they're gonna sell my dumb pictures of what I ate to advertisers. -everyone

@Janelle_Lo28:
What the heck is going on, snow in #Vancouver ahh go away, I moved away from the interior to get away from this stuff

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Apocalypse now?

The end of the world may or may not be upon us, but Hollywood has been preparing us for this moment for decades. The higher the stakes, the bigger the drama, and there's no higher stakes than the fate of the entire world. So here's our picks for the best movies about the end of the world.

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

1. Children of Men (2006)

Alfonso Cuarón's adaptation of P.D. James' novel about a world unraveling after women stop being able to get pregnant is a masterpiece, a gripping and hyper-realistic look at how society deals with calamity. The real tragedy is how little attention it got upon its release. Watch it now, while you still have time.

2. Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

Stanley Kubrick made it OK to laugh in the face of possible nuclear annihilation with this pointed satire of escalation and mutually assured destruction, culminating with Slim Pickens' famous ride on a warhead.

3. Melancholia (2011)

Dazzling visuals and an impressive, against-type performance by Kirsten Dunst buoy this divisive film from Lars von Trier about a family trying to get through a wedding while a rogue planet hurtles toward Earth, threatening total annihilation.

4. The Cabin in the Woods (2012)

Spoiler alert: Drew Goddard's hilarious, twist-filled take on horror movies (co-written by Joss Whedon) is more than it seems.

5. Last Night (1998)

A quiet, delightful indie precursor to Seeking a Friend for the End of the World, Don McKeller's film gives a distinctly Canadian look at the end of the world. Toronto residents have had months to prepare, so there's little need for panic.

6. The Road (2009)

A gut-punch of a film, John Hillcoat's screen adaptation is just as chilling and stark as the Cormac McCarthy novel on which it is based. The world may not actually end in this one, but from the looks of what's become of things, it might as well have.

7. Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (2012)

A refreshing take on the asteroid headed to Earth plot, this road movie with Steve Carell and Keira Knightley is surprisingly charming — and features a barrage of comic cameos as the main characters head out across the country with three weeks to live.

8. On the Beach (1959)

Long before CGI could render total destruction in realistic detail, we had Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner waiting out the end in Australia after a global nuclear war in this Cold War-era drama, notable for its non-Hollywood ending.

Movie review

A Guilt Trip down the middle lane

The Guilt Trip

Director. Anne Fletcher

Stars. Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand

What made The Guilt Trip an interesting premise also ultimately works against it. Sure, crafting a road-trip comedy with Barbra Streisand as mother to Seth Rogen's coddled adult son may attract fans from disparate camps, but by skirting down the middle, the comedy ends up compromised for both sides. Ultimately, the Babs side wins as Streisand's overbearing Jewish matriarch makes Rogen look like he's just holding back. **STEVE GOW/METRO**

Week of Armageddon

Check out Metro all week for more stories of apocalyptic proportions.

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Channing Tatum's wife Jenna Dewan-Tatum has a bun in the oven.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

'Sexiest Man Alive' Channing Tatum reproducing

Capping off an amazing year that's included several hit movies and a Sexiest Man Alive title, Channing Tatum is now gearing up for fatherhood. Tatum's wife, Jenna Dewan-Tatum, is expecting the couple's first child sometime next year, their rep confirmed to People magazine. And it may not be the last.

"I'm ready. I think she's ready," Tatum recently told the magazine. "The first number that pops into my head is three, but I just want one to be healthy and then we'll see where we go after that."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Beckham?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Bend it like Burberry?

It was announced this week that at only 10 years old, David and Victoria Beckham's son Romeo Beckham is the "baby face" of Burberry's spring/summer '13 campaign, joining a long list of models and stars who have fronted ads for the house, including Cara Delevingne, Edie Campbell and Eddie Redmayne. "We had such fun shooting the campaign and I think that comes through in the images, which really reflect the upbeat spirit of the collection," Burberry's creative director Christopher Bailey says.

Perhaps Burberry really wanted his dad, David Beckham, but then decided they wanted to go with someone who has more of a mature, male voice?

In other news:
A 2012 coming-out recap

Who: Anderson Cooper, journalist.
How: In an email to blogger Andrew Sullivan.
What was said: "The fact is, I'm gay," Cooper wrote. "Always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself and proud."

Who: Wade Davis, a cornerback who spent four pre-seasons with three NFL teams.
How: In an interview with Outsports.com.
What was said: "You just want to be one of the guys, and you don't want to lose that sense of family," Davis said about not coming out sooner. "Your biggest fear is that you'll lose that camaraderie and family."

Who: Lee "Uncle Poodle" Thompson, redneck.
How: Just by appearing on Honey Boo Boo.
What was said: Thompson's homosexuality isn't a huge to-do on the show; he's out and proud. As Alana says in the season finale, "ain't nothin' wrong with bein' a little gay."

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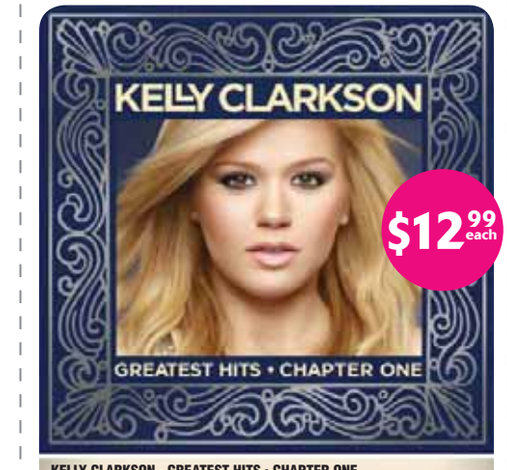

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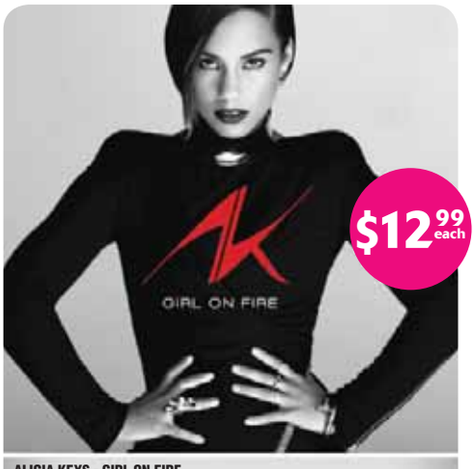

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This holiday season, think South Pole instead of North

Icy wonderland. While Santa's homeland might be on our minds right now, Antarctica's unspoiled landscape beckons travellers

DOUG WALLACE
life@metronews.ca

Who owns Antarctica? The penguins, of course — several million of them (cute little devils, too). At 1.4 times the size of Canada, the seventh continent to tick off your bucket list is rich with incredible wildlife, pristine vistas and amazing history. With the season stretching from the end of November to the beginning of March, and January temps hovering at zero around the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula, this trip south could be your chance to be a real snowbird this winter.

The starting gate

The expedition begins with an overnight in Ushuaia, a small city of 65,000 at the bottom of Argentina that bills itself as the "city at the end of the world." Just a few kilometres from Tierra del Fuego National Park, it was originally founded as a prison colony, and the old prison has been converted into a museum complex, which includes a full wing on Antarctica.

The ship

Most of the cruise ships that serve Antarctica are a smaller variety; great for squeezing through ice-filled canals. Toronto-based Quark Expeditions has been ferrying people across the notorious Drake Passage for 20 years, with a comfortably high guest-to-crew ratio and an excellent track record. On-board experts share their knowledge of ornithology, marine biology, zoology and geology with insightful talks during downtimes on the voyage down and back, as well as throughout the trip. Photography courses help guests get that perfect shot, and a wellness program includes yoga classes and massage therapy — both great for relieving backs left sore from a day of hiking and Zodiac boat rides around all the icebergs.

The crowd

A truly international crowd makes this trek — from the fleece-clad adventurers to the retirees bored with the Caribbean to the young marrieds getting in some travel miles before they start a family.

"Antarctica captures people's imagination regardless of their age, and people come with different goals," says Quark expedition leader David Wood.

Visiting scientists gathering data could well accompany you on your excursions, and are eager to talk about their work. Whether guests are gung-ho adventure types or a "contemplative" group that takes things easier, there is pretty much something for everyone.

The excursions

After two days at sea, when you reach land-ho, out come the Zodiac pontoon boats. Twice daily spins around the various harbours and bays, plus landings on islands that dot the Antarctic Peninsula as well as the continent itself, make for a flurry of activity. Sea kayaking is a great way to interact with the scenery and connect with the water and the wildlife. Penguin colonies, secluded bays of berg-filled waters, lazy seals on thick ice floes, majestic birds, gorgeous glacial ice sculptures, rocky peaks — the photo ops are beyond stunning.

Hikes around the islands of Antarctica reveal breathtaking views. ALL PHOTOS: TIM STEWART

The eco-friendliness

All Antarctica tour operators uphold the same objectives to keep the region as pristine as possible, following directives outlined in The Antarctic Treaty, which was signed in 1959.

Among other things, this involves preventing the introduction of non-native species to the area, be it plants or disease.

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The penguins are the real stars of the cruise, entertaining travellers with their antics.

If you go...

- **Tours.** For 2013-2014, Quark Expeditions has a few new adventures, including a Greenland cruise and a Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica voyage that departs from Buenos Aires. It features the first-ever Polar Floating Documentary Film Festival, and was just voted one of Wanderlust Travel magazine's 50 Best Trips of 2013. Check it all out at quarkexpeditions.com.

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Darren Parkman has a need for speed at the Las Vegas Motorways. CONTRIBUTED/DARREN PARKMAN

Las Vegas — welcome to life in the fast lane

Need for speed.
Forget gambling and partying, whizzing around a racetrack in a $300,000 car is one of Sin City's biggest thrills

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

As if endless bars, glitzy shows, and nerve-racking blackjack weren't enough, there's an even more exciting way to get the adrenaline pumping in Vegas.

How about putting pedal to metal behind the wheel of a $300,000 racing Ferrari?

If you've got the nerve, the skills and several hundred dollars, Dream Racing at Las Vegas Motorways is for you.

A little backstory: My first car was a beloved '73 Pinto, so I'm no Mario Andretti behind the wheel. Still, I couldn't resist the urge to at least pretend I was, and hopefully emerge in one piece.

Located less than a half hour from the strip, LV Motorways is a genuine race track, complete with grand stands and a challenging track. After a brief but intimidating car simulator session, I found myself suiting up and strapping into an honest to goodness real Ferrari F-450 GT race car.

Just the roar of the engine was enough to strike fear into my heart. Luckily, an experienced driver was right beside me in the passenger seat, shouting commands through my headset and telling me when to hit the gas. And hit the gas I did. Ever wonder what it feels like to be inside a launching rocket? I don't wonder anymore.

All the while, my driving instructor is yelling for me to gear up or gear down with the steering column paddle. Probably the single coolest moment was when I took my first corner at full throttle. Whereas most cars would probably roll multiple times at this point, this amazing Ferrari felt like it was glued to the track even on a sharp bend. After getting a bit used to the G-force, I found myself screaming and laughing hysterically as I lapped my opponent, whose driving I felt was a bit too grandma-like.

This experience is well worth the price of admission. And I don't miss that Pinto anymore.

Other Las Vegas adventures

- **Indoor skydiving.** Suit up and dive into a tube with a giant fan blasting you upwards. Simulates actual skydiving and free falling. The fan generates winds up to 193 kilometres per hour.
- **Freemont St. zipline.** Soar above the most historic street in Vegas. Flightlinez offers rides for only $20 nightly after 6 p.m.

Stocking stuffers

Traveller on your list? Here are some items guaranteed to please

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

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Spare Soles Portable Flats are for the ladies in your life who want a break from their heels, whether in an airport, on the plane or at the hotel. They are compact and foldable and fit in the smallest of purses or pockets. Prices start at $13 US,
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INCLUDES Times Square accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $15 per night. **ADD** Empire State Building admission from $21.

Orlando Spring Break Family Special
Air + 7 Nights — from $719◊
INCLUDES central accom with free transportation to major attractions. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $10 per day. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Walt Disney World* Resort 4-Day *Magic Your Way* Base Ticket from $273/adult, $255/child (ages 3-9).

New Orleans Air + 4 Nights — from $744
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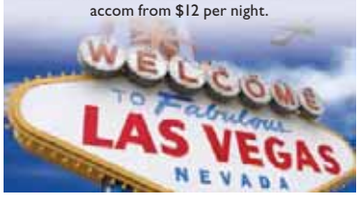

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Air + 3 Nights + 3-Night Cruise — from $759
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Roasting chestnuts on an open fire

Do people really roast chestnuts?

Yes, says Linda Grimo of Grimo Nut Nursery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. But the easiest way to do them is on the barbecue, she says. Nuts have been part of the holiday tradition for centuries, with both religious and pagan origins cited by various sources. Although cooks tend to incorporate them in dishes throughout the year, they are a staple of holiday entertaining.

There are options aside from roasting

Sautéing peeled chestnuts in a frying pan is an alternative to barbecuing. If you boil them briefly first, the nuts will "pop right out" of the skin, says Grimo. She cooks them in butter for at least 10 minutes, adding sugar to caramelize them for a sweet treat or garlic or onions if she wants to add them to vegetable or meat dishes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Storage

Store-bought nuts in the shell or in jars can be stored at room temperature, but freshly harvested nuts have a high moisture content and need to dry out. Grimo advises people who pick black walnuts, for example, to hang them in a burlap sack in the furnace room for three weeks, preferably with a small fan near them to circulate air through the bag. Chestnuts are the exception and should always be stored in the refrigerator.

The weigh in

Nuts are very good for us, says dietitian Doug Cook, and since they all have different nutrients in varying degrees, eating a variety is best. Ounce for ounce, nuts contain between 150 and 200 calories. The number of servings per person should depend on age, activity level and body weight. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DOUG COOK, DIETITIAN AND DIRECTOR OF THE TORONTO CHAPTER OF HEALTHCASTLE.COM.**

Cocktails of the Week

Fig and Maple

Something about fig and maple syrup just goes together. And when you add a little liquor, you have a delicious and warming combination that is perfect for those nights when you're curled up in front of the fire.

- 2 fresh or dried fig
- 1 tbsp ginger marmalade
- 1 oz hot water
- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2 oz fresh lime juice
- 2 oz ginger beer
- 1 oz maple syrup

1. In a shaker, muddle fig with ginger marmalade and water. Add Bombay Sapphire, fresh lime juice, ginger beer and maple syrup. Add ice and double strain into glass.

PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

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Halfway in and having some doubts?

School switcharoo.
It's not uncommon for mixed feelings to make their way into the minds of learners

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

So your college or university major isn't what you thought it'd be. Maybe the career opportunities you thought you'd have haven't panned out. Or perhaps you've discovered a new interest.

Fall classes may be over, but there's still time to meet with an academic advisor and change your winter schedule to pursue a new major or specialization.

According to the University of Calgary, the majority of university students switch their majors at least once. Reasons why vary from not being hired to discovering new interests to just plain uncertainty.

Be cautious of stacking your schedule with similar classes. Try to study a variety of subjects to get a wider perspective and discover your other interests earlier. ISTOCK

What should you do if you're interested in something else?
It's easy to follow your friends, study what your parents tell you to or pursue a career based on how much it pays. But you have to deal with your career choices, Toronto-based community manager Stephanie Fusco says.

Fusco studied politics at Queen's University and hoped to go to law school since she was in high school. But in a fourth-year political communications seminar, she realized that she loved strategy, speech writing and communications more. She graduated from Queen's and later pursued her passion and earned a post-graduate certificate in public relations from Humber College.

Drawn to different choices

> **"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school."**
> Stephanie Fusco
> Toronto-based community manager

"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school," she says. "I'm sure I'm doing what I'm supposed to do and my career is on a path I'm very happy with."

Maybe there's an aspect of your major you love. It may take some reflection or experimentation to figure it out, but try to pursue a degree and a career in the aspect that interests you the most, Fusco adds.

What should you do if you're not sure?
If you're unsure about your interests or aspirations, choose an undecided major. According to the University of California, students who enter college with an undeclared major change their focus fewer times than students who declare their major. So when you do make a decision, you'll make it count.

What should you do if you weren't recruited this fall?
Many large companies have already filled their entry level or leadership program positions by now. Don't panic if you haven't been hired. Take rejection as an opportunity to assess your interests, goals and options.

When an accounting firm didn't recruit Nick Guadagnolo last year, the then aspiring auditor and fourth-year accounting student at the Schulich School of Business enrolled in organizational behaviour and marketing classes in his final semester instead.

"An accounting specialization without a CA designation was not what I wanted," Guadagnolo says. "I excelled at, and quite frankly derived so much more pleasure from, the not-so-numerical aspects of the BBA degree."

He studied things like sports marketing, crisis management and operating a family business. He wrote the LSAT in June, applied to law school this fall, travelled frequently and continues to work part-time in HR. For Guadagnolo, there is credence to a plan of action that doesn't involve immediately jumping into the fray. It sounds scary now, but maybe the same applies to you too.

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Student voice

To the educated, I say keep your ego in check

Susan Rann
Graduate
Business Administration
Nova Scotia Community College
TalentEgg.ca

What's my rant/beef/whatever you want to call it about you, we, us, the post-secondary post-student career-looking individual? We think too damn highly of ourselves.
Not enough words to get published? Well let me elaborate.

Remember the day that the college actually accepted your application? What happened to you in the less-than-a-year to three years since then that makes you believe you are fit for a CEO role? Seriously. We all feel it once in a while — just last week I applied to be the prime minister. I have yet to hear back.

At any rate, we get a little knowledge in us and we suddenly think we don't have to start at the bottom.

How about a little experiment? Let's apply for the gigs we know we are able to do and let the ones we want come to us when the time is right. Believe me — if the organization that finds you is awesome enough, they will make room for someone who knows the value of service over the person with a bunch of letters after their name.

Based on your experience, what recommendation(s) do you have for employers, career centres or schools?
My recommendation to employers is to give every person who takes the time to apply to your organization a chance to speak to one person. That is all. A quick, five-minute chat with an employee of your company to find out if they are a good fit. Human nature will let each individual know within those five-minutes if a resumé should be handed in and an application process initiated.

What are you doing now?
I write and volunteer in my spare time.

Based on your experience, do you have any advice for your fellow students and recent grads?
I have plenty of experience and attitudes for many different situations and work experience to share with you.

In general, my advice is to keep your head high in whatever you are doing.

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SPORTS 4

Fans cheer on the Vancouver Canucks during the playoffs in April 2012 in Vancouver. Sixty-one per cent of British Columbians responding to a new survey said that they "have no interest" in a resolution being reached in the NHL labour dispute. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

NHL's relationship with fans on ice

Lockout. New survey suggests majority of Canadians 'have no interest' in seeing an end to labour dispute

Quoted

"Once a certain amount of damage has been done and the trust is gone, it's really hard to repair that relationship."

Relationship expert Kimberly Moffit on the NHL lockout and fan apathy

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

We need to talk. It's obvious you just don't feel the same way about us as we feel about you.

Yes, the relationship between the National Hockey League — currently on Day 96 of its lockout — and fans feeling unwanted has reached a "toxic" level, according to Toronto-based relationship expert Kimberly Moffit.

And no amount of apologies, free tickets or flashy gifts is going to quickly smooth things over.

"It's like the relationship where one person can get away with doing whatever they want and the other person is so badly wanting to be in that relationship that they'll put up with absolutely anything," said Moffit said in a phone interview.

"Gifts are always nice in any relationship to try and show that you're willing to change. But the best indicator of new behaviour is new behaviour."

However, it appears that in this relationship, the frustration and dissatisfaction fans felt earlier in the labour dispute has transformed into apathy.

A new poll released Tuesday suggests that a majority of Canadians simply don't care about the lockout.

A phone survey completed by NRG Research Group and Peak Communicators showed 58 per cent of Canadians "have no interest in the two sides reaching an agreement in the National Hockey League dispute," according to a media release.

A total of 801 individuals over six different regions of the country responded to the survey, which was conducted Dec. 11 to 16.

"You don't want 58 per cent of your family saying 'I don't care about you,'" said Brian Owen, CEO and founder of NRG Research Group.

British Columbia hosts the largest percentage of people turned off by the lockout, with 61 per cent of respondents falling into the "have no interest" category.

Ontario was a close second at 60 per cent. Quebec was lowest at 53 per cent.

But is there the possibility for reconciliation? Can the league win back disillusioned fans once it eventually comes to terms with the players' association on a new collective bargaining agreement and returns to the ice?

"I think we'll know in a year just how forgiving the fans are going to be," said Owen.

Citing human relationships that undergo similar turmoil, Moffit was skeptical about how many hockey-deprived fans will go back to following the NHL.

CFL

B.C. Lions re-sign six players

The B.C. Lions announced on Tuesday the re-signing of six players who occupied time on the club's practice roster this past season.

Defensive back Gerard Lawson, defensive lineman Ekom Udofia, offensive lineman Ben Ossai, linebacker Glenn Love, quarterback Jarrett Brown and non-import receiver Keith Godding will all attend Lions training camp in June.

All six players were eligible to become free agents in February.

Only Love, a native of Chandler, Ariz., and a product of UCLA, saw any playing time with the Lions this season. He suited up in Week 6 against the Toronto Argonauts. METRO

MLS

Whitecaps to host Toronto FC in season opener

The Vancouver Whitecaps will begin their third Major League Soccer season against a familiar Canadian rival.

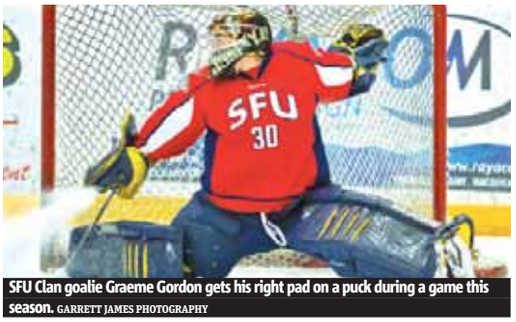
The Whitecaps will host Toronto FC on March 2 at BC Place Stadium to open their 2013 MLS campaign.

"We are excited to be kicking off 2013 at BC Place against one of our fiercest rivals and cannot wait to get out onto the pitch in front of our fans," said Whitecaps head coach Martin Rennie in a statement.

The Whitecaps opened their inaugural MLS season with a 4-2 win over Toronto FC at Empire Field back on March 19, 2011.

However, the Vancouver side has since struggled against the Reds. The Whitecaps have four losses and two draws in their last six matches combined between regular-season and Amway Canadian Championship play against Toronto FC. METRO

SFU to host 'educational' hockey tourney



SFU Clan goalie Graeme Gordon gets his right pad on a puck during a game this season. GARRETT JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

Education and entertainment — that's what organizers of the inaugural Great Northwest Showcase tournament hosted by the Simon Fraser University men's hockey team hope to provide this holiday season.

The two-day competition runs Dec. 28 and 29 at Burnaby's Bill Copeland Arena and includes local teams from SFU and UBC, as well as prominent NCAA Division I schools University of Oklahoma and Arizona State University.

"I think any time you bring in institutions with the name recognition ... you're going to draw attention whether it's from the hockey purist or sports fan in general," said SFU Clan head coach Mark Coletta.

The university competition will be combined with the 50th annual Burnaby Bantam Christmas Tournament, and will give those young players and parents a chance to learn about the benefits and academic qualifications to playing hockey in post-secondary institutions.

In terms of on-ice competition, Coletta is eager to see how his team plays against its two opponents from down south.

Each team plays two games. The two NCAA schools will not play each other. Ditto for SFU, which plays in the BC Intercollegiate Hockey League, and the UBC Thunderbirds of the CIS Canada West conference.

The ASU Sun Devils are the top-ranked team in the American Collegiate Hockey Association, while the Oklahoma Sooners are sixth.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Canadian junior team not sleeping on jet-lag issues

Travel concerns. Trip to Ufa, Russia, just one more obstacle on road to world championship

The puck drop for Canada's first three games at the world junior hockey championship in Russia is 1:30 a.m. PST.

Host city Ufa is 10 to 14 hours ahead of the Canadian players' body clocks, depending on what part of the country they're from. A Canadian junior team hasn't travelled this far, or crossed this many time zones, since the 2001 tournament in Moscow. Ufa is another 1,160 kilometres and two time zones to the southeast.

Jet lag and travel fatigue will be major challenges, barriers as significant on the road to gold as the Russians, Swedes and Americans.

Hockey Canada enlisted the expertise of Calgary sleep specialist Dr. Charles Samuels to draw up a plan to combat jet lag and sleep deprivation.

"I've met with sleep doctors, sports psychologists, neuropsychologists," Canadian head coach Steve Spott said. "I've met with just about every doctor possible."

The accepted rule is it takes a day for every hour of time difference to adapt. Samuels aims to accelerate the adjustment.

Travel fatigue gets less attention than jet lag, he says, but for athletes who travel to far-flung places a lot, it can be damaging to performance. The cumulative effects of extensive travel fatigue the body and mind. Even though the Canadian team is travelling to Ufa only once, the distance and time on planes can catch up with them.

Samuels drew up Canada's plan from a template he created for the Vancouver Canucks in their 2011 Stanley Cup final against the Boston Bruins.

"That's an extreme example, because you're coast to coast, Boston to Vancouver," Samuels said. "We take that experience and translate it to this, which is even more extreme."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'No screwing around'

The Canadian team is currently training in Finland, a four-hour time difference from Ufa, Russia. The players were on a strict schedule from the moment the wheels went up on their flight from Calgary on Saturday.

- One of the worst things a team can do, says Samuels, is get on the plane exhausted, but it was inevitable some players would be after selection camp.
- "We really talked about on the flight, eye shades, ear plugs, noise-cancellation headphones, all the pillows and comfort you need and the plane is for rest. No screwing around," Samuels said.

Quoted

"It's basically a survival situation if you look at the frequency of games, the time of the games and then the fact there's virtually no time to recover before the finals."
Calgary sleep specialist Dr. Charles Samuels

Canadian players, from left, Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin and Jonathan Huberdeau look on during team photos last Friday in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refusing to buckle on value of knuckle

New Blue Jays starter R.A. Dickey began toying with the knuckleball in 2005 while with the Texas Rangers and initially struggled with it. But Dickey continued working on the pitch and has enjoyed solid success with it since joining the New York Mets in 2010. MARC SEROTA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

It's quirky, unpredictable and has been described in baseball circles as an oddity and "pitch of last resort."

But the Toronto Blue Jays are banking on R.A. Dickey's dancing knuckleball.

The Jays acquired the National League Cy Young Award winner in a seven-player deal with the Mets on Monday.

Dickey, 38, posted a 20-6 record and 2.73 earned-run average with New York in 2012, but his go-to pitch wasn't a blazing fastball, nasty slider or deep-bending curve. Often he got batters out with the knuckleball, a slow, unassuming pitch that flutters like a butterfly.

By the numbers

4

R.A. Dickey is the fourth pitcher to win the Cy Young only to be traded before the next season, joining David Cone, Pedro Martinez and Roger Clemens.

"This may be a pitch of last resort, which I think is accurate, but think about over history how many last resorts have ended up being successful," Dickey said during a conference call Tuesday. "A lot."

General manager Alex Anthopoulos signed Dickey to a two-year, $25-million US contract extension with a $12-million club option for 2016. Dickey is scheduled to earn $5.25 million in 2013.

"I think Alex should be commended on being able to see past those stereotypical analyses a lot of guys give the pitch as a gimmick or something that isn't legitimate," Dickey said. "I think we can all admit the past year and the past three years in general have been legitimate."

The good news for Toronto is Dickey started six games against the American League over his three seasons in New York, posting a 4-0 record and 1.71 ERA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dickey loved New York

R.A. Dickey picked up his phone Saturday, and Mets GM Sandy Alderson told him he had 72 hours to negotiate a contract with the Jays.

- "OK, here we go. I probably am never going to be a Met again," Dickey thought. "I think I had a wash of just numbness come over me."
- "I had a lot of success there, and I think it's important for me to be sad about that for a moment before I move on.... It's important for me to grieve leaving New York," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Judge lowers bond in Cowboy Brent's manslaughter case

A judge ordered Dallas Cowboys nose tackle Josh Brent to wear an electronic monitor pending his trial on an intoxication manslaughter charge in the one-car crash that killed a teammate.

State District Judge Fred Tinsley also lowered Brent's bond from $500,000 US to $100,000 on Tuesday. He ordered Brent not to drink alcohol or drive without a valid driver's licence. Prosecutors say Brent was driving with a suspended licence on the night of the Dec. 8 crash that killed friend and Cowboys practice squad member Jerry Brown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas Cowboys tackle Josh Brent leaves court in Dallas on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Source: Red Sox ink deal with Drew

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday that shortstop Stephen Drew and the Boston Red Sox have agreed to a $9.5-million US, one-year contract.

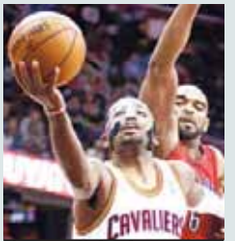
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Raptors snap road skid in Cleveland

Jose Calderon scored 23 points, and the Toronto Raptors won on the road for the second time this season by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 113-99 on Tuesday. It was the Raptors' first road win in 11 games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cavs guard Kyrie Irving shoots on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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*Models shown are the 2013 Forester 2.5X 5MT (DJ1 XO) / 2013 Outback 2.5i Convenience 6MT (DD1 CP) with MSRP of $28,015 / $30,515 including freight & PDI ($1,595), documentation fees ($395) and battery and tire tax ($30). License, taxes, insurance and registration extra. †$2,000 cash incentive is for cash customers only and is available on all new 2013 Forester models. Cannot be combined with Subaru Canada supported lease/finance rates or Holiday Bonus. **0.5%/ 0.9% finance and lease rates available on all new 2013 Forester / 2013 Outback models for a 24-month term. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. ***$500 Holiday Bonus offer applies only to lease and finance agreements for all new 2013 Forester / 2013 Outback models. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. **/***/†Offers valid until January 3, 2013. See your local Subaru dealer or www.western.subarudealer.ca for complete details.

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Civic hits refresh button

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Features

The new Honda Civic's feature list is long, so here's some highlights: Bluetooth for audio and device hook-up, heated front seats, read out and respond for text messages and navigation upgraded with voice recognition, plus a "three-view" rear camera. In fact, a rear-view camera is now standard on EX models.

New stylish features

2013 Honda Civic fast facts

- **Sales.** Canada's top selling car line
- **Engine.** 140 hp, 1.8 litre four-cylinder. Si Coupes and Sedans upgraded to 201 hp.
- **Location.** Most models built in Alliston, Ont.
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $15,400

Style changes

The new model flaunts a degree of exterior style and interior finesse not quite evident on the 2012 Civic. In a mid-cycle refresh like this one, about all you're able to change on the outside are front and rear fascia, hood and trunk panels and the wheels. Honda has done that and all to great effect.

Design

The look is wider and lower — slightly more sporty and premium. It now sports exterior bits you've been seeing on higher-end models, like complex headlights, black mesh grille with chrome accents, integrated fog lights (on higher trim lines) and larger, more horizontal taillights that flow into the sides of the car.

Review. New model has learned from mistakes of 2012 Civic

MIKE GOETZ
Drive@metronews.ca

This newly minted 2013 Honda Civic sedan is one unusual automobile. Not weird like it runs on goat cheese, or some other dairy product.

Unusual in that the refresh bestowed upon it for 2013 comes only one model year after it was completely reborn. About 18 months ago, that all-new and ninth-generation 2012 Honda Civic came out to mixed reviews — not so bad that it had any problem at all retaining its mantel as Canada's top-selling passenger car.

But Honda must have been clearly spooked about its initial reception and the subsequent and serious competitive moves made by its competitors in this all-important compact car segment — Canada's largest. Toyota Corolla and Mazda3 have always battled Civic hard, but now there's a whole new and energetic crowd banging on the door (Chevrolet Cruise, Ford Focus, Hyundai Elantra, Dodge Dart, etc.)

"The days when the Civic was just a car for the first time buyer are gone," says Dave Gardner, vice-president of sales and marketing for Honda Canada.

On top of everything else it offers, it's quieter on the road thanks to new acoustic measures and the new suspension bits, which also reduce NVH. Good on Honda to make this move, and good on Civic. Your place on top of the Canadian sales charts will surely continue.

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Complimentary Shuttle Service	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
Wash & Vacuum	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
Factory Trained Technicians	✓YES	• NO	• NO	• NO
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Honda Ridgeline is handy as heck

Pickup truck. Unique design adds tremendous flexibility

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Honda Ridgeline Sport

- **Engine.** 3.5 litre VTEC V6, 250 horsepower
- **Towing Capacity.** 2,268 kg
- **Transmission.** 5-speed automatic
- **Price as Tested.** $37,790

Just because the Ridgeline isn't a diesel burning machine doesn't make it any less of a truck. JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

I'm a Northern Ontario boy living in the land of Dodge Ram 2500s, Ford Super Dutys and GMC Sierra HDs. People up here love their diesel-powered torque, low-range gearing and tens of thousands of pounds of towing capacity.

The Honda Ridgeline is a truck with none of these attributes — and one considered "less" of a truck by many of my misinformed, diesel-burning friends.

Face it, guys. Driving a Ford Super Duty to the grocery store, baseball game or mall is a massive waste of fuel. At least it'll make quick work of towing that utility trailer a few times a year, eh?

Ridgeline only comes with a V6. It's decent on fuel and as powerful as anyone needs.

Its 4x4 system is, usually, front-wheel drive. It's got a smallish box.

But, if you don't regularly need the services of a great big towing rig, it's a truck that makes plenty of sense. Moreso if you have a family, love camping, own a four-legged friend or two, or like to partake in outdoor sports.

A clever, flexible design ideology lies at the Ridgeline's functional core.

The large rear seats offer heaps of room for two or three full-sized adults and have a generous storage space beneath them, helping occupants stay organized.

And those rear seats flip up and out of the way in about three seconds, creating a large cargo area that'll securely accept a bike or two, a flat-screen TV, a few golden retrievers, or a load of groceries.

Or some of the above and a passenger, if you leave one of the seats in its "seat" position.

The box is short — but adequate for a dirt bike, motorcycle or a small quad. The firewall at the front of the bed has built-in notches for holding tires in place, which work with tie-downs to make securing two-wheeled toys a breeze.

The tailgate opens out, like a door, or downwards, like a tailgate, too. Four lights illuminate the bed as needed.

It's full of clever, thoughtful touches. Underneath, Ridgeline's famous "under-bed compartment" adds a trunk similar in capacity to that of a mid-sized car.

It's lockable, waterproof, and is illuminated and drainable.

If you've got, say, three buddies and two dirtbikes along for the ride, other gear can be kept out of the way in this "truck trunk" without chewing up interior space or being tossed around in the box.

Soggy life jackets, groceries, ice and beverages, coolers, firewood, sandy beach towels and the like all found a home in here on my test dive.

Hose it out at the coin wash when you're done.

Ridgeline is also comfortable, rides like a big car, and isn't a giant, imposing, clumsy, thirsty thing to drive.

It's almost like a minivan — but cooler and more capable and without the jokes. That's a good thing for many.

Honda's hit the mark here with a truck that's perfect for what 99 per cent of pickup owners use their trucks for 99 per cent of the time.

I came away from my test drive wondering if I'd ever driven a vehicle that was so handy and flexible.

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The sexy new models make their L.A. debut

Autoknow. It's the perfect town for an auto show that's about speed, beauty and going green

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

Ecology, speed, style and fantasy. They're just a few trademarks that help define the pomp of the Los Angeles Auto Show every year when this important event kicks-off the North American auto show season.

For 10 days each fall — Nov. 30 to Dec. 9 this year — the L.A. Convention Center becomes center stage for a broad spectrum of model debuts and a lineup of vehicles designed to impress a diverse California consumer base from wealthy movie stars to eco warriors. In 2011, more than 920,000 enthusiast and potential buyers attended the L.A. show, leaving it second only to the Detroit Auto Show in importance to the North American auto industry.

The 2012 L.A. show didn't necessarily feature the pizzazz from recent years. Vehicle improvements seemed to outweigh any groundbreaking innovations. But a clear manufacturer focus during a critical time for the industry raised the stakes at a show that always provides a sneak peak into consumer interest and sales.

Even with sagging economies crippling new-car sales in Europe and China, automakers from around the world debuted more than 50 new models in L.A., all trying to capitalize on a growing consumer confidence and improving economy here in North America.

What's going on out there?

Many of the models may have changed, but the West Coast message remains the same: In terms of luxury, technology, styling and efficiency, more is never too much. Sports cars are faster, fuel efficiency is better, battery range is longer, emissions are lower, technology is easier and all of these advancements were featured on stages throughout the 2012 show.

From the sexy look of the 2014 Jaguar XFR-S to the intriguing 2014 Mazda6 clean-burning diesel — the first non-German powered diesel sedan to hit U.S. soil in 30 years — the L.A. menu lived up to its billing as both diverse and eclectic, featuring more than 1,000 of the latest vehicles.

Luxury is more of a necessity than a frill in and around Hollywood. And with growing demand in the upscale-sedan class, the gas-sipping 2013 Audi A8 diesel and its 36 m.p.g, along with the tech-heavy 2014 Honda Acura RLX, were two headliners looking for consumer love during the L.A. show. For speed freaks, Mercedes Benz brought its 2014 SLS AMG Black Series prototype, where 622 horsepower takes you to 100 k/h from rest in 3.5 seconds.

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Offer(s) available on select new 2012/2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 2nd, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models on approved credit. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Rio5 LX+ AT (RO753D) with a selling price of $18,572 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies) and A/C charge ($100, where applicable)] financed at 0% APR for 36 months. 78 bi-weekly payments equal $225 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ♦Every eligible contestant will win (subject to correctly answering a skill-testing question) an Instant Win prize consisting of a discount in an amount from $1,000 to $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2012 or 2013 Kia vehicle. One Grand Prize consisting of a $25,000 cheque will be randomly awarded from among all eligible contestants at the conclusion of the contest. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license over the age of majority. Odds of winning a particular discount vary by prize and by region. See kia.ca or your participating Kia dealer for complete contest rules. ≠≠Don't Pay until Spring™ on select new models (120-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on all 2013 Sorento models. No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment (on approved credit) for new 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD)/2013 Sorento 3.5L LX V6 (SR75ED)/2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT (SP551D)/2012 Rondo LX with AC (RN750C) based on a selling price of $28,667/$31,267/$23,767/$22,767 is $157/$172/$130/$114 with an APR of 1.49%/1.49%/1.99%/0% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,053/$8,824/$6,606/$5,933 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, $500/$500/$750/$1,000 loan savings, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies) and A/C charge ($100, where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. §Loan savings for 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD)/2013 Sorento 3.5L LX V6 (SR75ED)/2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT (SP551D)/2012 Rondo LX with AC (RN750C) is $500/$500/$750/$1,000 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit. Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. ^^Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD (SR75XD)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX with Navigation (SP759D)/2012 Rondo EX V6 Luxury (RN75BC) is $43,045/$39,145/$28,945 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650 and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies), variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. °The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. ‡Trailer brakes must be equipped to achieve 3,500 lbs towing capacity. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2012 Rondo 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T). These updated estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

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Parts Department

Whether it's a Christmas gift, a novelty birthday gift or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Lighten your load

Fumbling around in the dark while trying to find/remove the contents of your pickup's load bed is a thing of the past if you have installed an Automatic Cargo Light from 4zproducts. It automatically switches on when the tailgate is lowered. The least expensive version uses a single incandescent light, but for extra-bright illumination you can purchase either a single or dual light emitting diode (LED) four-foot-long strips that extend along the length of the box and can be attached without tools. Prices range from $30 US to $100 through shop.4zproducts.com.

This tops them all

Toting extra gear on top of your vehicle can be relatively easy and inexpensive with the Car Top Duffle Bag from Rightline Gear. This 91–by 40–by 32–centimetre waterproof unit can be strapped to the roof without needing to be secured to a rack, although that's likely not recommended for really heavy loads. The duffle bag also features a urethane coating that, claims Rightline, makes it 100 per cent waterproof. Along with all the necessary attachments for securing the bag to the doorframe, the Duffle Bag comes with adjustable over–the–shoulder carrying straps. The Car Top Duffle Bag has a suggested list price of $70 US. For full info and a complete rundown of retailers, go to rightlinegear.com.

Take charge

When storing your vehicle's battery for a lengthy period, it would be helpful to know if and when it might require recharging. OptiMate's Charge Now Warning Flasher attaches to your battery and will alert you should its power level drop below 50 per cent. At that point, you can recharge the battery by connecting the Charge Now Flasher through the supplied connector to any other vehicle's 12–volt receptacle to bring the battery up to full charge. The Charge Now Flasher is available for sealed automotive batteries or for marine–type wet–cell batteries and sells for $20 US from smartchargers.com.

You gotta have pull

If you or someone you know just has to have the latest and greatest tools in his or her shop, the Easypuller from Las Vegas Tools should definitely be on the shopping list. This award–winning product is designed to remove virtually any stubborn fastener. That includes rusted and seized–up bolts screws, nails, cotter pins, clips, seals and so on. It will even work as a dent remover. The secret is the patentpending Easypuller's special locking pliers that clamp onto the fastener in question. They work in tandem with a sliding one–kilogram hammer that creates a powerful pulling force. The Easypuller sells for $40 US from lasvegastool.com.

ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

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2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown.[3]

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Wise customers read the fine print: • ° ♦ ✎ ± § The Holiday Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after December 1, 2012. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealers for complete details and conditions. •$19,998 Purchase Price applies to 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E+CL9) only and includes $8,100 Consumer Cash Discount. $19,998 Purchase Price applies to 2013 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F+DJE) only and includes $2,000 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See participating dealers for complete details. +Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select new 2013 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. ♦Holiday Bonus Cash up to $1,000 is available on most new 2012/2013 models, excluding the following: Chrysler 200 LX, Dodge Caliber, Dart, Grand Caravan CVP, Journey CVP/SE, Avenger, Viper, Jeep Compass Sport 4x2 & 4x4, Patriot Sport 4x2 & 4x4, Wrangler 2 Dr. Sport, Grand Cherokee SRT8, Ram 1500 Reg Cab & ST & SXT Trucks, Ram Cab & Chassis, Ram Cargo Van, FIAT 500 Abarth and 2012 FIAT 500 Pop models. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your dealer for complete details. ≤4.99% lease financing available through WS Leasing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Credit Union) ("WS") to qualified retail customers on new 2012/2013 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram and FIAT models at participating dealers in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories. Example: 2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo with a Purchase Price of $34,298 including $1,000 Holiday Bonus Cash and $2,500 Lease Delivery Credit. Purchase Price includes freight ($1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, dealer charges and taxes. Lease offer is based on a 60 month term at 4.99% APR and 130 bi-weekly payments of $199. Down payment of $0, first bi-weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $25,870. Lease may be available at a lower rate. See your dealer for details. ‡4.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan, Canada Value Package/2013 Dodge Journey, Canada Value Package models to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Auto Finance and Ally Credit Canada. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See your dealer for complete details. Examples: 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package/2013 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $19,998/$19,998 (including applicable Consumer Cash Discounts) financed at 4.49% over 96 months with $0 down payment equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $115/$115 with a cost of borrowing of $3,823/$3,823 and a total obligation of $23,821/$23,821. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. §2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $27,595. Pricing includes freight ($1,500-$1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. ■Based on *Ward's* 2012 Small Van Segmentation. Excludes other Chrysler Group LLC designed and/or manufactured vehicles. ±Based on R. L. Polk Canada Inc. January to October 2011 Canadian Total New Vehicle Registration data for Chrysler Crossover Segments. ^Based on 2013 *Ward's* Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ¤Based on 2013 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on power train, driving habits and other factors. 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan – Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km (36 MPG) and City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 MPG). 2013 Dodge Journey SE 2.4 L 4-speed automatic – Hwy: 7.5 L/100 km (38 MPG) and City: 10.8 L/100 km (26 MPG). ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

Like a tree? Ford attempting to grow a car from the roots up

Driving Force. Automakers are experimenting with bio-materials for car parts and the green trend is picking up speed

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Along with food, many farmers are growing car parts these days.

Not directly, of course, but several automakers are experimenting with plant materials, including Ford, which operates a Bio-Materials Lab at its Research and Advanced Engineering Center in Dearborn, Mich.

"We have been working for the last 12 years on replacing petroleum products with bio-materials," says Debbie Mielewski, technical leader for plastics research. "People originally laughed at us until oil hit $100 a barrel, since there are 300 pounds (136 kg) of plastic in each vehicle."

Quoted

"We're now working on recycled soy foam and we're having some success with that."

Debbie Mielewski, technical leader for plastic research at Ford.
On the new products they've been experimenting with.

The earliest work was on foam made with soybean oil. The first examples were too brittle, but researchers finally came up with a viable product made with 40 per cent plant oil. It was initially used for seats in the 2007 Mustang, and is now found in every vehicle made in North America. "It saves five million pounds of oil every year," Mielewski says. "We're now working on recycled soy foam, and we're having some success with that."

Currently, the lab is experimenting with such things as rice hulls, coconut shells, and other agricultural waste. But it isn't enough just to add new materials to plastic, and researchers have to look at a wide range of issues, including how the composite handles extreme heat or cold, how strong it is, and if it can be produced on a large scale. The team even has to consider such things as whether people with plant allergies have any reaction to the finished plastic.

The seasonal nature of agriculture must also be considered, and there has to be a steady supply of the bio-material. Some crops also have to be rejected because industrial use would infringe on food production.

In addition to plant products, the lab also looks at new uses for recycled materials. It has had success with shredded soft drink bottles, which are turned into carpets and with denim waste from jean production, which is made into carpet backing and insulation. The researchers are even considering paper money, which the U.S. Mint shreds and sends to landfills when it gets too worn, as an ingredient in composite plastic.

Of note

- **The old days.** Henry Ford experimented with soybean plastic in the 1930s, but it was prohibitively more expensive than plastic made from oil, which was cheap at the time.
- **Bed down.** Ford works with non-competitive industries, such as mattress manufacturers, to help them use more soybean foam.
- **Green car.** All of the fabric in the Ford Focus Electric is made from recycled materials.

Ford is one of several car companies experimenting with bio-materials. HANDOUT

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Just another toy among thousands? Some car buffs beg to differ. HANDOUT

Carol singer John Lamanna reacts to an advertisement in his program announcing the 2013 Jetta for only $168 a month. *"I haven't hit a note that high since I was 14,"* he later commented.

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*Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2013 Jetta 2.0L / 2013 Tiguan 2.0T base model with 5-speed/6-speed manual transmission. $1,395/$1,610 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 36/48-month term. $0/$2,585 down payment, $0/$350 security deposit and amount exceeding the $400/$500 maximum amount offered for the first month's payment, if applicable, due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: $6,048/$16,889. 60,000/64,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/$0.15 per km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and applicable taxes are extra. **First monthly payment of $0 available on a 36/48-month lease (through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit) of select new and unregistered 2013 Jetta / 2013 Tiguan models (TDI Clean Diesel and Jetta GLI models excluded) up to a maximum of $400/$500 (excluding taxes). 2013 Jetta Highline 2.5L as shown is $24,590. 2013 Tiguan Comfortline 2.0T with Sport Package as shown is $33,475. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Models may not be exactly as shown. Some features may be optional on some models and available at additional cost. Dealer may lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end January 2, 2013 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design", "Jetta" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2012 Volkswagen Canada.

Hoping for a gift with wheels under the tree

The golden olden days. Hobby-grade slot cars continue their cult status with children and adults alike

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
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Christmas morning is always fun. But it can never be as fun as it was on those magical Christmas mornings, when you were in your prime toy- yearning years.

First you don't get the Santa thing. Then, Santa and Christmas morning are everything. Then you gradually get jaded by the whole thing and start getting up later and later on Christmas morning. The window is actually quite small for really getting into it, but when you're into it, you're into it hard.

And it was in that glorious window that Santa once dropped off for me the actual Eldon slot car racing set I feverishly desired.

Net result: best Christmas present ever.

I still have the two slot cars that came with the set — an original Ford Mustang Fastback and a Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Coupe.

Back then (the mid-to-late 1960s), slot car racing sets were one of the prime Christmas toys for boys.

"You'd go to an Eaton's store back then, and there would be four or five tracks set up for kids to play and try," remembers Ernie Mossetti, who has been a slot car retailer since 1988, and a slot car aficionado virtually all his life. "I was born in 1956, and got my first slot car in 1964."

The slot car's reign on top of the toy kingdom didn't last long. Mossetti says things were pretty much over by the late '60s.

Slot car sets are now just another toy among thousands. But "hobby grade" slot cars continue their cult status with adult aficionados, and some young folks as well.

Mossetti currently operates two slot car related concerns — raceworldcanada.com and mr.slotcar.ca — the former's an online store and the latter a line of professional grade slot cars designed by Mossetti (he's an industrial designer by trade). He notes that sets from Germany's Carrera and Britain's Scalextric continue to dominate the current market.

Mossetti says kids don't get exposed to the slot car world like they used to — there is little advertising or promotion. And these days, you have to go to a hobby store or an online store to get your actual slot car stuff.

Vroom

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids ... or say they are buying a set for their kids."

Ernie Mossetti, slot car retailer and aficionado
On the popularity of the classic toy

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids ... Or say they are buying the set for their kids."

Ouch, I resemble that last remark.

When our son, Jared, was four, he got from Santa a starter Scalextric set, with an Indy 500 theme. In retrospect, he was too young for it. Whenever he and his buddies played with it, they would simply hold the controller throttle on full blast, all the time. The beautifully detailed Indy racers were flying and crashing all over the living room. As designated first responder, I was very busy retrieving the cars and setting them back gently on the track, only to see them fly off of the track on the next lap.

But I didn't mind. They moved onto other activities eventually. Then I would have the track all to myself.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You can be as adventurous as you please now, knowing that nothing bad will come of it. Make use of the Sun's final few days in sympathetic Sagittarius to have fun. Forget about yesterday, it's today that matters.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Money may be a little tight at the moment but that is no reason to deny yourself the good things in life. On the contrary, you will feel better about yourself if you splash out a bit — but not too much.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Thought may be your natural medium but with love planet Venus moving through the relationship area of your chart you want to express yourself not only mentally but romantically too. Give the object of your affection your full attention.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you need help, you must ask for it. No one will think any the less of you if you request assistance. On the contrary, they will admire your maturity. Neither success nor self-worth have anything to do with separation.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The more you have been working on serious things, the more you owe it to yourself to have some fun. Social activities, as well as an affair of the heart, will bring you a great deal of pleasure over the next 24 hours.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's rather unusual events will convince you that important objectives can only be reached if you are prepared to meet other people halfway. That applies not only to your allies but to your rivals too.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Most of the time your head rules your heart, but today the opposite will be true. You will allow your feelings to dictate what you say and do. Nothing bad will come of it. In fact, you will thoroughly enjoy yourself.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Calm down and stop taking what other people say so seriously. Yes, of course, some individuals can be a complete pain but if you let them upset you it means they have won. It's life — learn to laugh at it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Take your pleasures where you find them and don't give a thought to what is going on around you. Is that irresponsible? Some people may think so but you have done your bit for world peace — now you want a piece of the action.

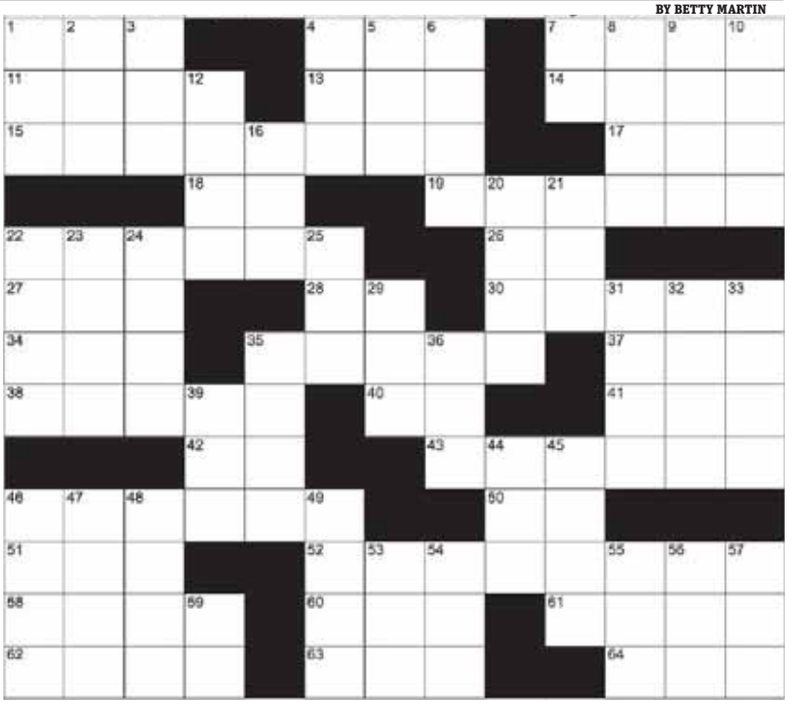
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Most of the time you think and behave rationally but the planets warn that your feelings could get the better of you today. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that so long as they are positive and loving feelings.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stick to what you do best and don't let others involve you in things you have next to no interest in. There is only so much that any one person can do and you'll do your bit better if it inspires you.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will find yourself up against someone who speaks and acts a bit too aggressively today but you must not react in kind. Smile, talk softly and reasonably and let them see you are beyond their reach. You win. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

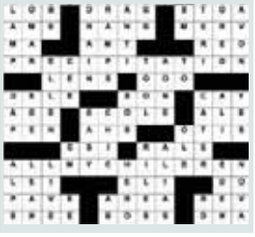
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Package request (abbr.)
4. Breakfast choice
7. Headliner
11. Extremely dry
13. Seminary subj.
14. Skin opening
15. Renounce
17. "Far out!"
18. Trucker's radio, for short
19. Occasions
22. Rate
26. Little Rock st.
27. Victory sign
28. Exclamation of surprise
30. At no time
34. Writer Levin
35. Whacks, as a housefly
37. Silkworm
38. Perry Mason's secretary
40. Musical note
41. Toss out
42. Knight of Grey's Anatomy
43. Busy – - — (3 words)
46. Archie Bunker's offspring
50. – the World Turns
51. Cut back
52. Careless
58. General vicinity
60. Battery sz.
61. Church section
62. Car mishap
63. Skillet
64. Pouch

Down
1. Canadian Auto Association
2. Sphere
3. "I Know What You — Last Summer"
4. Long, long time
5. — Smart
6. Jane Lynch series
7. She played Emily Hartley on The Bob Newhart Show (init.)
8. Severed
9. I smell - — (2 words)
10. Lipstick colours
12. Recipe direction
16. Survivor network
20. Moving vehicles
21. Sooner than, poetically
22. Eager
23. Dried
24. Circus barker
25. Farm mother
29. Sandwich filler
31. Part of speech
32. A great lake
33. Take the subway
35. Indian dress
36. — Maria (coffee liqueur)
39. Common paper sz.
44. Tree fluid
45. Business abbr.
46. Pleased
47. Knowledge
48. — Mike with Mike Bullard
49. Memo abbr.
53. Half a Teletubbie
54. McShane or Ziering
55. The Hour — 22 Minutes
56. Eggs
57. Winter mo.
59. One Day – a Time

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

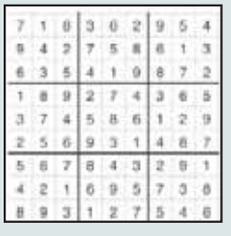
See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		9	3					
3		4						
	7			8			5	4
5					9	8	4	
		1		2		6		
	2	6	4					9
7	9			3			8	
						7		5
					1	2		

Yesterday's Sudoku



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12
Wednesday, September 2012
Coffee with Jamie 2 PM

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- Oakridge Centre
- Pacific Centre
- Park Royal S

OKANAGAN

KAMLOOPS
- Aberdeen Mall
- Lansdowne Village

KELOWNA
- Dilworth Shopping Centre
- Orchard Park Shopping Centre

PENTICTON
- Peachtree Square

PRINCE GEORGE
- Pine Centre

VERNON
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NANAIMO
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- Woodgrove Centre

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